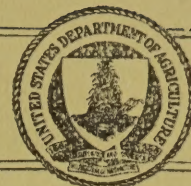
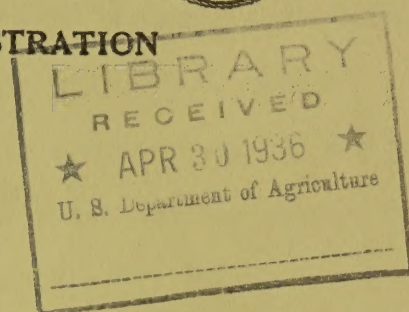


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION



For Release - Morning Papers
Saturday, March 21, 1936

NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION
PLAN IS ANNOUNCED BY WALLACE

The terms of the new national soil conservation program for 1936 were announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

The program, which provides payments to producers who meet conditions specified for soil conservation and soil improvement in 1936, has been designed to carry out the objectives of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. The announcement followed by one day the signing of the measure by President Roosevelt which carried the appropriation of \$440,000,000 to finance the 1936 program.

"The new program represents a sincere effort both to conserve the soil in the interests of producers and consumers and to preserve the economic gains that farmers have made during the past three years", Secretary Wallace said.

"The new program from an immediate point of view may not be quite as effective as the old one destroyed by the Supreme Court, but from a long time point of view, the new program may prove to be even more constructive," he said.

The 1936 plan was described by H. R. Tolley, Acting Administrator, as being largely a composite of the recommendations of the four regional conferences held recently at Chicago, Memphis, New York and Salt Lake City. The program does not follow all the recommendations of any one of the conferences, but has adopted some features of plans favored in each of the meetings and has sought to compose differences in line with regional and national needs, Mr. Tolley said. Since there will be more time to develop the 1937 program, next year's plans can be worked out to meet regional needs more closely, he pointed out.

Salient points of the new program are:

- (1) A goal is set for 1936 which includes an increase of crop land devoted to soil-improving and soil-conserving crops from the 1930 level of about 100,000,000 acres to 130,000,000 acres. This is an attempt to halt wasteful exploitation of soil resources, and establish conservation of soil fertility as a new national policy in this country.
- (2) The program would enable the production of quantities of food and fiber ample to supply domestic consumer needs.
- (3) In order to develop a fair and workable method by which individual farmers can carry out the program, the plan calls for establishment of a soil-depleting "base acreage" for each farm on which application for payment is made. The starting point in establishing this soil-depleting base is the acreage on the farm in soil-depleting crops in 1935.
- (4) Special soil-depleting base acreages are to be established for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, flax seed, rice, sugar beets, and sugar cane for sugar.
- (5) Two types of payments are to be paid to cooperating farmers: a soil conserving payment averaging \$10 an acre for the country as a whole and a soil-building payment of up to one dollar for each acre in soil conserving and soil

building crops in 1936.

(6) For purposes of payment, crops are classified as soil-depleting crops, soil-conserving crops, and soil-building crops. Farmers also may qualify for payments by adopting one or more well-recognized and approved practices of soil improvement, such as liming of pastures or planting of trees on seriously eroded lands. The soil improving practices on which payments will be made will be worked out in cooperation with state committees.

(7) Payments are to be divided between landlord and tenant where each shares in the crop or its proceeds.

(8) Administration is to be through State Committees, county and community committees and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

(9) Five regional divisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration are to have charge of administration in five major areas making up the United States.

(10) Payment is to be made to the individual farmer after actual evidence is submitted that he has fulfilled the conditions of the grant, and performance has been certified to by his county committees. There will be no contracts with farmers.

(11) Including all funds available from any source, approximately \$470,000,000 can be expended for soil conservation and soil building, and for administration of the program locally and nationally. The program is such as to result in the distribution of funds among regions and states in accordance with the principles set forth in the Act.

"In order to make certain that this program achieves its primary aim of soil conservation", Mr. Tolley said, "no payment will be made on any farm unless there has been positive action which results in additional soil building or soil conservation on that farm."

Mr. Tolley pointed out that the AAA production control programs were stopped by the Hoosac Mills decision, and that the new plan necessarily has many new features departing widely from anything undertaken heretofore. Nevertheless, the diversion of 30 million acres of land from the soil-depleting surplus cash crops into soil-building legumes and grasses should work against return of burdensome surpluses and protect farm income to a considerable extent, Mr. Tolley said.

As a matter of policy, he explained, the program does not encourage the shifting of lands from import crops to soil-building or soil conserving crops.

Following are summaries of the main features of the 1936 program for the nation. Variations are being worked out for the different regions and in conformity with recommendations at the Salt Lake City conference efforts are being made to develop a range conservation program.

BASES

A farm's base acreage for any crop or crops is the amount of land ordinarily planted on the farm to that crop or crops.

In this program, soil-depleting bases are to be established on farms, first to provide a definite standard to measure the extent of soil conservation and soil improvement on individual farms in 1936 and second, this standard will be used to determine the amount to be paid to the individual farmer who cooperates. The base will be arrived at through information given by the farmer to his county committee.

The soil-depleting base for any farm will be the total acreage in soil-depleting crops on that farm in 1935, modified to take care of unusual situations.

These modifications will include allowances for (a) acreage planted to soil-conserving and soil-building crops in 1935 because of the AAA adjustment

programs, and (b) for unusual variations in plantings in 1935 because of drought, flood or other unusual conditions. Adjustments in bases also will be made in instances where a farm's soil-depleting or soil-conserving acreage is materially out of line with that for similar farms in the same locality.

In order to provide county committees with a guide showing the proportion of farm land that formerly has been devoted to soil-depleting and soil-improving crops in the county, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will establish the ratio of soil-depleting acreage to all farm land in each county. As a rule, the average of all individual bases established in the county is to conform to this ratio.

Special soil-depleting bases will be established for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, sugar, rice and flaxseed.

The bases for individual farms for cotton, tobacco and peanuts will follow in the main the bases previously established. The county committees may recommend modifications and in so doing may take into account the available facilities, and their past use in the production of cotton, tobacco and peanuts. The total of individual bases for cotton for any county can not exceed the base acreage established for cotton for that county by the Agricultural Adjustment program. The same rule is applicable to tobacco and peanuts.

The base for flax will be established by the county committees on the basis of facilities for flax production. For sugar, the base upon which payments will be made will be approximately the same as the acreage allotments under the Jones-Costigan Act. The base for rice will follow the bases previously established, with necessary adjustments.

Payments

Payments are to be made only for positive performance by farmers in improving and conserving farm land. Two types of payment are offered to cooperating farmers. They are a "soil-building payment" and a "soil-conserving payment".

Soil-Building Payments

This payment will be made for 1936 seedings of soil-building crops on crop land, and for approved soil-building practices on crop land or pasture in 1936.

The rate of this payment within each state will be based upon recommendations of the state committee subject to the Secretary's approval. Farmers will be given an opportunity to qualify for soil building payments up to \$1 per acre for each acre in soil-conserving and soil-building crops in 1936.

An exception is made in the interests of small producers, who may qualify for payments up to \$10 without regard to acreage limitations.

Soil-Conserving Payments

This payment will be at a specified rate for the shifting of acreage from soil-depleting to soil-conserving or soil-building crops in 1936, or to approved soil-building practices.

Maximum limits have been placed upon the soil-conserving payments to protect the interests of consumers and for purposes of budget control.

The rates of this payment are based upon estimates that 80 percent of farmers eligible will participate. If participation is less than the estimate, the rates may be increased pro rata. In no case will rates be increased or decreased more than 10 percent.

No payment will be made on any farm unless minimum requirements for 1936 plantings of soil-conserving crops are met. The minimum requirement is that the total acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops shall at

least equal either (a) 20 percent of the farm's soil-depleting base of (b) the percentage on which a soil-conserving payment can be made.

The rates of soil-conserving payments for all farms are as follows:

<u>Soil-depleting crop</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Maximum acreage with respect to which payment will be made</u>
(a) All soil depleting crops except cotton, tobacco, peanuts, sugar beets, sugarcane for sugar, flax and rice.	An average of \$10. per acre, varying among states, counties, and individual farms as the productivity of the crop land used for these crops varies from the average productivity of all such crop land in the United States.	15 percent of the base acreage for the farm of all other soil-depleting crops except sugar beets, sugarcane, flax, and rice.
(b) Cotton	5¢ for each pound of the normal yield per acre of cotton for the farm.	35 percent of the cotton base acreage for the individual farm, but not more than 25 percent of the aggregate of the individual bases for any county.
(c) Tobacco	For each pound of the normal yield per acre of tobacco for the farm at the following rates per pound of specified kinds of tobacco, as follows: (1) 5¢ for flue-cured Burley, or Maryland, as the case may be. (2) 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for fire-cured or dark air-cured, as the case may be. (3) 4¢ for Conn. Valley types 51 and 52. (4) 3¢ for Pennsylvania and New York types 41 and 53, Miami Valley types 42, 43, and 44, or Wisconsin types 54 and 53, as the case may be.	30 percent of the base acreage for the farm of any of the foregoing kinds of tobacco.

<u>Soil-depleting crop</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Maximum acreage with respect to which payment will be made</u>
(d) Peanuts harvested for nuts.	1½¢ for each pound of the normal yield per acre for the farm of peanuts harvested for nuts.	20 per cent of the base acreage for the farm of peanuts harvested for nuts.

For sugar beets and sugar cane, the soil-building payment will be 12½ cents per 100 pounds of sugar produced on the base acreage, provided that half as much land is devoted to soil-building crops as to sugar crops.

For flax, the soil-building payment will be 20 cents per bushel on the average yield of flaxseed in the county on the acreage planted, provided that in addition to land diverted under the general program, an acreage at least 20 percent of the flax acreage is planted to soil-building crops.

An acreage of rice land equal to not less than 20 percent of the base acreage must be devoted to approved soil improving crops or practices in 1936 to qualify for a payment. Not less than 65 percent of the base must be planted to the crop to qualify. The payment will be 20 cents for each hundred pounds of the producer's domestic consumption quota of rice, or that part of the average production which was consumed in this country in past years.

Administrative Organization

For administrative purposes, the United States has been divided into five regional divisions.

The Southern Division is made up of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

The East Central Division is comprised of Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.

The Northeast Division is made up of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

The North Central Division is made up of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

The Western Division is made up of North Dakota, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Classification of Crops

Crops are classified into three classes. They are soil-depleting crops, soil-conserving crops and soil-building crops.

The classifications are virtually uniform for a group of crops but variations from them have been made in particular instances for the regions.

Soil-building practices that will be approved have not been finally determined.

Following is a preliminary classification for the country as a whole. Regional modifications of the national classification are being worked out, and changes can be made from time to time through recommendations of state committees.

GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

Soil-Depleting Crops include:

1. Corn (field, sweet, broom and popcorn);
2. Cotton;
3. Tobacco;
4. Irish potatoes;
5. Sweet potatoes;
6. Rice;
7. Sugarcane;
8. Sugar beets;
9. Cultivated sunflowers;
10. Commercial truck and canning crops, melons, and strawberries;
11. Peanuts, if harvested as nuts;
12. Grain sorghums and sweet sorghums;
13. Small grains, harvested for grain or when seeded alone and harvested for hay, (wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, flax, emmer, speltz, and grain mixtures);

Soil-Conserving Crops include:

1. Annual legumes, including vetch, winter peas, bur and crimson clover; biennial legumes, including sweet, red, alsike, and Mammoth clovers; perennial legumes, including alfalfa, kudzu, sericea, and white clover; and Annual Lespedeza.

2. Perennial grasses, including bluegrass, Dallis, timothy, redtop, orchard, Bermuda, carpet, brome, crested and slender wheat grass, or grass mixtures, when on plowable crop land and not classified as permanent pasture.
3. Small grains, including wheat, oats, rye, barley, or small grain mixtures, when seeded as a nurse crop, pastured or not, and clipped green; or when grown alone, pastured or not, and turned under in 1936 as a green manure crop.

Soil-Building Crops include:

1. Annual legumes, including vetch, winter peas, bur and crimson clover, when turned under in 1936 as a green manure crop. Acreage seeded to these crops in the fall of 1935 and turned under in 1936 will qualify.
2. Biennial legumes, including sweet, red, alsike, and Mammoth clovers; perennial legumes, including alfalfa, kudzu, sericea, and white clover; and annual varieties of Lespedeza, when seeded in 1936.
3. Summer legumes, including soybeans, velvet beans, field beans, crotalaria, field peas, and cowpeas, when turned under in 1936 as a green manure crop.
4. Perennial grasses, including bluegrass, Dallis, timothy, redtop, orchard, Bermuda, carpet, brome, crested and slender wheat grass, or grass mixtures, when seeded in 1936, with or immediately following a harvested crop.
5. Small grains, including wheat, oats, barley, rye, or small grain mixtures, when grown as a winter cover crop, turned under as green manure in 1936 and followed in the summer of 1936 by an approved soil-conserving crop. Small grain acreage seeded in 1935, turned under in 1936 and followed in the summer of 1936 by a soil-conserving crop will qualify.
6. Forest trees planted on crop land in 1936.

Division of Payments

In the Southern Division and in designated counties outside it in which cotton is the principal soil-depleting crop, the soil conserving payment will be divided among landlords and share tenants and share croppers as follows:

37 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent to the person furnishing the land;

12 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent to the person furnishing the work stock and equipment;

50 percent to be divided as the principal soil-depleting crop, or its proceeds, is divided.

The soil-building payment in the Southern division and designated counties will go to the persons signing the application for the grant. If two sign the application, the payment will be divided equally among them.

In counties in which the principal soil-depleting crops are tobacco and peanuts the regional director will direct a division of payments in conformity with prevailing leasing practices.

In other regions and counties the soil-conserving payment and the soil building payment will be divided between the landlord and share tenant or share cropper in the same proportion that they share in the principal soil-depleting crop under their lease or operating agreement.

The principal soil depleting crop has been defined as the one with the greatest acreage in the farming unit.

Organization in states and counties

Administration of the Soil Conservation program in the states and counties will be through State Committees, County Associations, county and community committees, and the Extension Service of the Land Grant Colleges.

The State Committees will link the general activities of the Adjustment Administration in Washington with operation of the program in the counties of the respective states. They will be made up principally of farmers representing the major types of farming of the state.

A state committee will be made up of from 3 to 5 members, the number depending upon the needs of the state. So far as possible, selection of the state committees in the various states will be along the lines recommended by the various regional conferences of agricultural leaders held during the past two weeks. Due to the urgency of getting the 1936 program under way, these appointments will be made as promptly as possible.

Every farm owner and operator in a county will be eligible to become a member in the county association.

The duties of the county committees will include informing members of the farm practices necessary to qualify for payments under the new program and to examine information supplied by farmers of the county with respect to individual farms. The Extension Service will cooperate in the educational work.

The community committees will aid the county committees in this work and serve to establish direct contact between county committees and the individual farm members.

Temporary committees have already been set up in several states because of the need for haste in getting the 1936 program under way and permanent county and community committees will be chosen by the farmers of the county.

Funds for Surplus Disposal

In addition to funds available for payments under the soil conservation program, Congress has made available, under various provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act and related legislation, funds for the removal of surplus dairy products, for diversion of products from the normal channels of trade, expansion of domestic and export markets, and for payments in connection with that portion of commodities used for domestic consumption.

